

to in order to make sure that it is an all-comprehensive story of the African American in this Nation?

These are very troubling times. September 11 drew all of us closer together. Now we approach the holiday season when families will be gathered and stories will be told. Will it not be wonderful to be able to come to the United States Capital in years to come because of the leadership of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), and ultimately from the work of this commission to be able to see the story of a very strong component of our history. This is not to deny the wonderment of the history of those who came across this Nation through Ellis Island or those who may have walked across the border from South America, or maybe those who came in a fishing boat. But what it says of those who came to this Nation in a slave boat have a very special history and now today that story will be told.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank the authors of this legislation and the committee for its wisdom in allowing us to debate this legislation, and I hope all of my colleagues will join me in enthusiastically supporting the first step of a very big step in our Nation.

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), our ranking Democrat on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the legislation before us to establish a Presidential commission to develop a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of the national museum of African American history and culture in Washington, D.C. It is a great tribute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) that he has worked so diligently and vigorously, in a bipartisan fashion with the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), to bring this bill to the House floor.

For over a decade, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) has been a persistent and a persuasive advocate for the establishment of a national African American museum, support for which is well established and has already been advocated for quite some time going back to the early 1990s by the Smithsonian Institution, which vigorously endorsed the concept of such a museum.

This commission that we are authorizing will supply significant information and data to support the size, the appropriate size of the building, the location, the budget, the extent and type of collection and displays to be managed there. Some of the ideas for the museum include exhibits on the reconstruction era, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Civil Rights movement. We also anticipate that the commission

and the museum to be established will work collaboratively with academic institutions to research and study African American life, history, art, and culture, as well as the abominable era of slave trade, which the gentlewoman from Texas alluded to so powerfully in her remarks.

As a part of the initiative we launch today, the Presidential commission will convene a national conference to consider and to include the views and opinions of learned persons who are dedicated to the advancement of African American life. This initiative is long overdue; and I strongly urge not only its support in this House, but swift enactment into law and establishment so that the progress can get quickly underway.

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious issue. We have had some excellent speakers to comment concerning this legislation, and we strongly support it.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3442.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bills H.R. 3282, H.R. 2595, H. Con. Res. 259, H.R. 10, H.R. 3441, H.R. 3442, and H.R. 3370, the legislation just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). The Chair would like to clarify that the request of the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. McINNIS) was intended merely to transfer to the gentleman from Ohio majority debate time, assuming that another Member had made the motion to suspend the rules. Unanimous consent was not required to permit the Speaker to recognize any Member for a motion to suspend the rules.

#### KEEPING THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROMISE INITIATIVE

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 282) expressing the sense of Congress that the Social Security promise should be kept.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 282

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This concurrent resolution may be cited as the "Keeping the Social Security Promise Initiative".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) Social Security provides essential income security through retirement, disability, and survivor benefits for over 45 million Americans of all ages, without which nearly 50 percent of seniors would live in poverty;

(2) Social Security is of particular importance for low earners, especially widows and women caring for children, without which nearly 53 percent of elderly women would live in poverty;

(3) each payday, American workers send their hard-earned payroll taxes to Social Security and in return are promised income protections for themselves and their families upon retirement, disability, or death, and that commitment must be kept;

(4) Social Security payments to beneficiaries will exceed worker contributions to the Social Security trust funds beginning in 2016, as demographics, including the aging baby boom generation and increasing life expectancies, will result in fewer workers per beneficiary and threaten Social Security's essential income safety net with financial instability and insolvency;

(5) deferring action to save Social Security will result in loss of public confidence in the program, will increase the likelihood of spending cuts to other essential programs, and will expose beneficiaries, particularly those with low earnings, to poverty-threatening benefit cuts or reduce workers' take-home pay through burdensome payroll tax increases;

(6) workers' ability to save and invest for their own retirement will continue to be particularly important, especially for younger workers, to enhance their own retirement security; and

(7) the President should be commended for recognizing that Social Security is not prepared to fully fund the retirement of the baby boom and future generations and for establishing the bipartisan President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security, which will report its recommendations this fall.

#### SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security, recognizing the immense financial commitment of every American worker into the Social Security system, should present in its recommendations innovative ways to protect that commitment without lowering benefits or increasing taxes; and

(2) the President and the Congress should join to develop legislation to strengthen Social Security as soon as possible, and such legislation should—

(A) recognize the obstacles women face in securing financial stability at retirement or